

I have been a ham operator for 29 years and have held an Extra Class license for 24 of those years. My interests in amateur radio are varied, and include contesting, DXing, public service, and radio restoration. I have provided emergency communications during weather emergencies.

I am in favor of the adoption of the 60 Meter band as a new amateur band on the proposed shared basis. This frequency allocation would significantly increase the capability of the Amateur Service to provide continental communications during emergency situations. It is well known that propagation can at times be too short or too long with the existing 80 Meter and 40 Meter amateur bands. The proposed 60 Meter band would significantly mitigate propagation problems. Overcrowding of the 40 Meter band, combined with existing foreign broadcast stations, can offer additional challenges to communications on 40 Meters.

Also, while not specifically related to this NRPM, but indeed of general concern, is the issue of subbands. I am not in favor of any division of the proposed 60 Meter band into subbands. It is my opinion that there is no evidence that supports this action and I submit that there is no consensus for subbands within the amateur community. Indeed, I contend that there are current situations on the HF amateur bands in which mandated subbands are causing large portions of spectrum to go idle, while other parts are crowded. While subbands may have a place under the proper circumstances, they can also be a tool to promote the agenda of a vocal select minority of the amateur community. Until such time as the preponderance of evidence shows a need for new subbands on any amateur frequency, I would strongly urge the FCC to not divide the proposed 60 Meter amateur band into subbands.

In closing, I would strongly urge the FCC to adopt the 60 Meter Band on the proposed secondary basis as a new amateur band.

Respectfully submitted

Mark S. Bell K3ZX
66 Flaharty Rd.
Airiville PA., 17302